Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) A system for an individual with impaired hearing, comprising:

a behind-the-ear (BTE) unit;

a ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component configured to communicate with the BTE unit and with an implanted device; and

an assistive listening device cap configured to attach to the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component and to be worn external to a patient's body;

wherein the assistive listening device cap includes data communication electronics;

wherein the assistive listening device cap is configured to mechanically attach to the exterior surface of the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component; and

wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with corresponding communication electronics within the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component.

Claim 10 (original) The system of Claim 9, the behind-the-ear unit including a cochlear implant speech processor.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with corresponding communication electronics of at least one of the behind-the-ear unit, the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component, an earhook attached to the behind-the-ear unit, and a Bluetooth enabled phone adapter.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with corresponding communications electronics implanted within the head of a patient with impaired hearing.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with the communication electronics of the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component through at least one of direct electrical contacts, wireless signals, and electrically conductive wire.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are powered by at least one of a primary battery located within the assistive listening device cap, a rechargeable battery located within the assistive listening device cap, and an external power source capable of transmitting energy to the electronics of the assistive listening device cap.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the assistive listening device cap is configured to mechanically attach to the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component by means of magnetic force.

Claims 17-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented) The system of Claim 14, wherein the wireless signal is selected from the group comprising an infra-red signal, radio-frequency signal, optical data signal, and Bluetooth wireless signal.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with the communication electronics of the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component through direct electrical contacts.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with the communication electronics of the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component through wireless signals.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with the communication electronics of the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component through electrically conductive wire.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are powered by a primary battery located within the assistive listening device cap.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are powered by a rechargeable battery located within the assistive listening device cap.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein the data communication electronics are powered by an external power source capable of transmitting energy to the electronics of the assistive listening device cap.

Claim 28 (currently amended) A method for a patient to use an implanted hearing device, comprising:

wearing a behind-the-ear (BTE) unit;

attaching to the head a ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component configured to communicate with the BTE unit and with an implanted device; and

mechanically attaching an assistive listening device cap to the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component and external to the patient's body, wherein the assistive listening device cap includes data communication electronics configured to communicate with corresponding communication electronics within the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component.

Claim 29 (currently amended) A system for an individual with impaired hearing, comprising:

an implantable hearing device;

a behind-the-ear unit;

a ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component configured to communicate with the behind-the-ear unit and the implantable hearing device; and

an assistive listening device cap configured to attach to the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component and to be worn external to a patient's body, wherein the assistive listening device cap includes data communication electronics configured to communicate with corresponding communication electronics within the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The system of Claim 29, wherein the implantable hearing device comprises a cochlear implant.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The system of Claim 29, wherein the implantable hearing device comprises an implantable hearing aid.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The system of Claim 29, wherein the data communication electronics are configured to communicate with the communication electronics of the ~~headpiece~~ head-mounted external component through at least one of direct electrical contacts, wireless signals, and electrically conductive wire.

Claim 33 (previously presented) The system of Claim 29, wherein the data communication electronics are powered by at least one of a primary battery located within the assistive listening device cap, a rechargeable battery located within the assistive listening device cap, and an external power source capable of transmitting energy to the electronics of the assistive listening device cap.